

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05

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O P 050900Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9527

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PROP, BU, CZ

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT SOFIA VE-DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A) STATE 83875; B) BUDAPEST 1236; C) MOSCOW 6056

1. BULGARIAN CELEBRATIONS. WE HAVE COORDINATED NATO POSITION AND ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM. GRAND JAMBOREE CONVOCATION WITH ZHIVKOV SPEECH SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7, AN ODD DATE IF HE PLANS TO BE HERE MAY 9. TALKED THE EAST GERMAN DEAN OF CORPS HERE OUT OF DEPOSITING WREATH IN NAME OF THE CORPS. BULGARIAN STATE PROTOCOL HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES ABOUT TEXT OF WREATHS AT CEREMONIES AT RED ARMY AND UNKNOWN LIBERATION FIGHTER MONUMENTS MAY 8 WHICH MOST NATO AMBASSADORS WILL ATTEND.

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2. EAST GERMAN CELEBRATION. SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT SITUATION HERE FROM THAT REPORTED REF B. WHEN WE RECEIVED GDR MISSION'S INVITATION FOR RECEPTION MAY 8 "ON OCCASION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION", WE

IMMEDIATELY QUERIED FRG AMBASSADOR MENNE WHO SAID HIS GOVT ALSO CONSIDERS THAT WHILE GERMANY WAS DEFEATED MILITARILY IN WORLD WAR II, IT WAS IN THE PROCESS INCIDENTALLY AND HAPPILY LIBERATED FROM AN OPPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP. ACCORDINGLY HE FINDS NOTHING PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE IN THE GDR INVITATION (ALTHOUGH BECAUSE OF A MINISTERIAL VISIT HE WILL NOT ATTEND IT HIMSELF).

3. THE FRENCH HOWEVER HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS THAT SINCE THE GDR "COUNTS ITSELF AMONG THE VICTORS ... AND AS AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF HITLERITE FASCISM... WE CANNOT SUBSCRIBE TO THIS INTERPRETATION AND ASSIMILATE THE GDR TO THE ALLIES... (AND) IT HAS THUS BEEN DECIDED NOT TO BE REPRESENTED AT... RECEPTION". FRENCH AMB THUS HAS TOLD ONE AND ALL THAT HE INTENDS TO STAY AWAY. I SAID IN VIEW OF AMB MENNE'S ATTITUDE MY INCLINATION WOULD BE TO BE REPRESENTED BY THIRD SECRETARY, BUT WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. CZECH CELEBRATION. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED INVITATION TO CELEBRATE "LIBERATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE GLORIOUS RED ARMY" AND WILL NOT GO OR BE REPRESENTED. HAVE PASSED THE WORD ABOUT THIS TO NATO COLLEAGUES WITHOUT HOWEVER URGING THEM TO DO LIKEWISE. FRENCH AMB, PERHAPS FEARING TO BE ISOLATED IN HIS POSITION ON GDR, IMMEDIATELY ASSURED ME HE WOULD NOT ATTEND CZECH RECEPTION EITHER.
HERZ

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